

Statewide Emergency Planning Committee (SWEPC)

FACT SHEET

What is SWEPC? The Statewide Emergency Planning Committee (SWEPC) is an informal organization comprised primarily of state agency emergency liaison personnel. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates SWEPC and holds quarterly meetings in Sacramento.

SWEPC provides an opportunity for participating local, state and federal agencies to disseminate information, express concerns, or develop ideas concerning emergency management in California. The SWEPC forum is ideal for sharing information, brainstorming, problem solving and for the discussion of specific, emergency management issues.

Vision

SWEPC provides an invaluable forum for the constant improvement and education of state agencies involved in planning and preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery activities for disasters in California. Approximately 47 different agencies, departments, offices, and commissions are currently represented on SWEPC. In addition, representatives from local jurisdictions, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations regularly attend.

Membership

SWEPC members represent a variety of departmental functions. Typically, they are the staff most directly involved with departmental emergency planning and response activities. Most often SWEPC participants represent:

- Field staff serving in a response capacity
 - Staff involved in emergency or preparedness planning
 - Program managers responsible for response-related programs or policy development
 - Administrative (financial) staff responsible for disaster reimbursement claims
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Mission

The Statewide Emergency Planning Committee provides opportunities for its membership to become more capable in all phases of emergency management through:

- Briefings and presentations about timely subjects such as new technologies, state and federal emergency management laws and regulations, best practices, new management structures, and current disaster events relevant to California.
 - Information bulletins and updates delivered through the SWEPC Membership Contact List.
 - Ad hoc committee work to identify, study, and recommend resolution of specific emergency management issues relevant to California.
 - Workshops with hands-on practical sessions for increasing the skill and knowledge level of state agency emergency planning personnel and related state agency staff in California.
 - Active participation in drills and exercises that both train and test the emergency response and recovery skills of state agencies in California.
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Meeting topics

In addition to OES staff, SWEPC invites speakers from local, state, and federal agencies, as well the private sector. Past SWEPC presentations have included the following:

- Standardized Emergency Management System
 - FBI Terrorism Response Briefing
 - Weather (Drought/Flood Forecasts)
 - West Nile Virus and Avian Bird Flu
 - Levee System in California
 - Unified Command
 - Federal Coordination
 - Northridge Earthquake
 - Oklahoma City Bombing
 - Flood and earthquake tabletop exercises
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Contact

For more information, contact the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, State Planning & Support Unit:

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